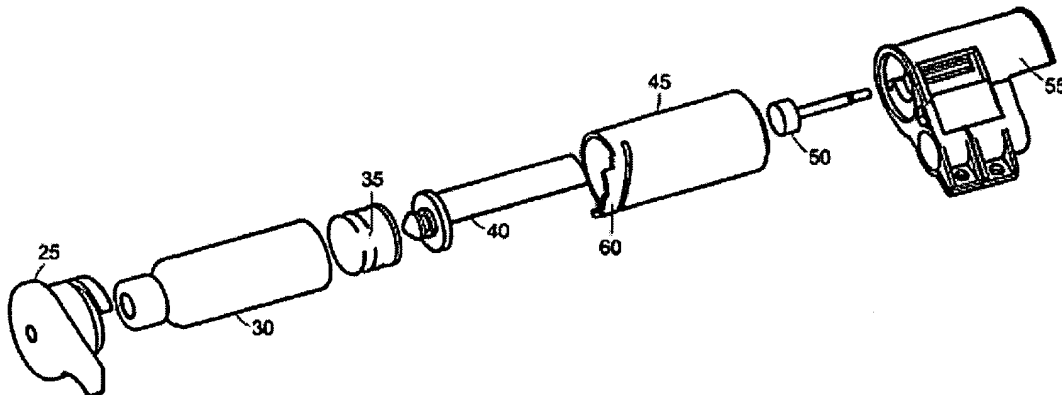


REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7 are pending in the case, of which claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shearn, while claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Srisathapat et al. Claim 7 stands objected to as depending from a claim that stands rejected.

Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1, as stated, stands rejected as anticipated both by Shearn and Srisathapat et al. One of the elements required by claim 1 is a barrel **45**, which, by virtue of its rotation, allows the threads of the drive screw **50** to engage corresponding threads of plunger rod **40** in order to drive the piston into reservoir **30** to expel a measured quantity of liquid. These components are shown in the exploded view of Fig. 2.



Attention is drawn to the fact that barrel **45** does not, in itself, contain fluid, but, rather, expendable cartridge **30** is inserted into the barrel. Amending language has been added to clarify that barrel **45** holds reservoir **30**, however, the scope of claim 1 has not been narrowed or modified in any way through addition of this clarificatory language.

The cited art lacks two required elements of claim 1: (i) the barrel that holds the reservoir, and (ii) a plunger rod with threads that interlock and disengage from the drive screw threads upon rotation of the barrel about the barrel axis.

First, the cited art does not teach or suggest a barrel as part of a drive assembly for an infusion pump such that the barrel is configured to hold a reservoir. Neither Shearn nor Srisathapat has any such component. Both references, instead, are directed toward a syringe driver system for forcing liquids out of a syringe. As shown in Figure 2 of Shern, the syringe **30** is actually a reservoir that holds fluid to be forced, and it does not correspond to the claimed barrel (as Examiner reads it to do) because the claimed barrel is part of a drive assembly and does not constitute a reservoir, like the syringe **30** of Shern.

As stated in the application during a discussion of the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 2, “[a] cylindrical pump barrel **45** receives the reservoir assembly **15**” (see application at page 3, lines 24-25), the pump barrel being part of a pump assembly that “contains the components needed to cause a reservoir assembly **15** to deliver medication to a user” (see application at page 3, lines 12-13). Indeed, Figure 2 of the application shows a reservoir **30** that is a separate element from pump barrel **45**.

Similarly in Figure 3 of Srisathapat, the syringe **12** is not a barrel, but a reservoir for holding fluid. Thus the cited art lacks the required teaching of a barrel of a drive assembly, as required by claim 1.

Second, the cited art does not teach or suggest having plunger rod threads that interlock with and disengage from the drive screw threads by rotating the barrel about the barrel axis, as required by claim 1. Without a barrel, there can be no rotation about a barrel axis to cause interlocking and disengagement of the drive screw threads with the plunger rod threads.

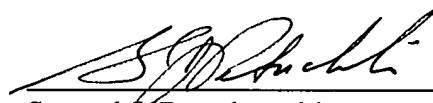
Shearn only discloses two methods by which threads of a drive screw engage and disengage from the threads of a plunger rod. In one method, as shown in Figures 9 and 10 of Shearn, a syringe is inserted into the cover to directly engage the threads of the plunger and shaft together (see column 9, lines 35-44). In another method, as shown in Figures 11 and 12 of Shearn, a syringe is inserted into the cover and the cover closed to engage the corresponding threads (see column 10, lines 2-15). As discussed in Srisathapat, the half nut and lead screw are engaged by aligning the two and applying pressure onto the half nut to snap fit the two together (see column 4, lines 37-39). None of these descriptions in the cited art correspond with the required limitation of rotating a

barrel of a drive assembly about a barrel axis such that the drive screw threads and plunger rod threads engage and disengage, as required by claim 1.

Without a teaching of all the required elements of claim 1, neither Shearn nor Srisathapat can anticipate. Since claims 2-5 and 7 depend ultimately from claim 1, these claims are not anticipated by the cited art at least for substantially the same reasons adduced with respect to claim 1, and are allowable.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1-5 and 7, and a notice of allowance. The Applicant also kindly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned if it will assist examination of the pending claim.

Respectfully submitted,



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